

three generations ago, according to the statements of local inhabitants. According to tradition these little islands were inhabited by light-skinned natives who were slain by the immigrants. Nowadays traces of these earlier inhabitants are still to be found in the form of ax blades made of tridacna shell, which now and then are discovered by the present inhabitants when they are turning the soil. These ax blades bear the greatest similarity to blades of the same material from the Fead, Mortlock and Ongtong Java Islands. Hence it may probably be assumed that the original population was very closely related to the present-day inhabitants of the above-mentioned island groups. On Nissan I sought in vain for such vestiges. The population there is rather numerous and keeps up active relations with Buka. A mixture of various tribes, to be sure, is noticeable, but it can be explained by the fact that there exists an annual connection with the St. John Islands (Wonneram), which is inhabited by people from south New Mecklenburg [New Ireland], via Green Island (Pinepil), situated not far from Nissan--a connection that has left noticeable traces, both ethnographic as well as anthropological, on Wonneram as well as Nissan. (Cf. R. Parkinson, Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Deutschen Schutzgebietes in der Südsee [Contributions to the Knowledge of the German Protectorate in the South Sea], SA, a.d. Mitth. Geogr. Ges. Hamburg [reprint from Mittheilungen der Geographischen Gesellschaft in Hamburg] 1887-1888, Number 3, pages 72-75; the same in IAE., Vol. X, 1897, page 109.)

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numerous observations made on the spot, as well as information received from Buka and Bougainville Islanders who were under my

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